

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SMS-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 HA-05 /073 W  
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R 011942Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5009  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PROP, UR  
SUBJECT: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOVALEV ON HELSINKI  
AGREEMENT, SOVIET DISSIDENTS

1. ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE SEEN TASS WRITE-UP  
OF MFA DEPUTY MINISTER A. G. KOVALEV'S JULY 31  
PRESS CONFERENCE ON THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF HELSINKI  
AGREEMENT. KOVALEV'S PREPARED STATEMENT, WHICH HE  
READ BEFORE TAKING QUESTIONS FROM SOVIET AND FOREIGN  
REPORTERS, REITERATED STANDARD SOVIET PROPAGANDA  
ON SUCH STAPLES AS THE NEUTRON BOMB, NON-INTERFERENCE  
IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND TRADE LEVERAGE. KOVALEV  
DID DISCERN, HOWEVER, GREATER STRENGTH ON THE SIDE  
OF THOSE IN THE WEST ADVOCATING A "RESPONSIBLE  
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APPROACH" TO DETENTE.

2. PERHAPS OF GREATER INTEREST, THOUGH, AND  
REVEALING OF OFFICIAL SOVIET STAND IF NOT  
MENTALITY, WERE KOVALEV'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS  
PROBING THE OFFICIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD UNOFFICIAL  
SOVIET HELSINKI WATCH COMMITTEES AND THE JUDICIAL

FATE OF DISSIDENTS. KOVALEV ADMITTED EXISTENCE OF "SELF-STYLED" OBSERVERS, BUT ISSUED A BLANKET CONDEMNATION, SAYING THAT THEY USE THEIR STATUS AS A COVER FOR "ACTIONS OF A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CHARACTER." HE DID NOT ELABORATE, BUT WE ASSUME THAT THE RECENT TRIALS MADE HIS INSINUATION CLEAR TO ALL.

3. MOVING ON TO DISSIDENTS, KOVALEV BEGAN BY SAYING HE WAS NOT ABOUT TO DISCUSS SUCH A PURELY INTERNAL MATTER WITH FOREIGNERS. HE THEN PROMPTLY PROCEEDED TO OFFER HIS COMMENTS. THE QUESTION IS NOT ONE OF CONDEMNING THOSE WHO THINK DIFFERENTLY, SAID KOVALEV, BUT OF PUNISHING THOSE WHO BREAK SOVIET LAWS. AND ONCE LAWS ARE BROKEN, THE SOVIET UNION REJECTS ANY AND ALL ATTEMPTS, ESPECIALLY FROM ABROAD, TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF SOVIET JUSTICE. BESIDES, IF DETENTE IS TO MOVE AHEAD, WE MUST ALL LEARN TO PUT ASIDE THESE SMALL ("MELKIYE") QUESTIONS.

4. COMMENT: SOVIET MEDIA ARE GIVING SUBSTANTIAL ATTENTION TO THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF HELSINKI AGREEMENT, WITH SPOKESMEN APPLAUDING AGREEMENT ITSELF, WHILE INTERPRETING WESTERN CRITICISM OF SOVIET PERFORMANCE AS PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AND INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BEHAVIORS IN THEIR VIEW FORBIDDEN BY THE FINAL ACT. THIS PERMITS THEM TO PRAISE A MAJOR BREZHNEV FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVE, WHILE INTERPRETING ANY PROBLEMS THAT ARISE FROM IT AS STIMULATED BY OPPONENTS OF DETENTE. TOON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, AGREEMENTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Subject:** DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KOVALEV ON HELSINKI AGREEMENT, SOVIET DISSIDENTS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PEPR, PROP, UR, (KOVALEV, A G)  
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